



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Hiroaki Sekizawa

Serial No.: 09/226,332

Art Unit: 2181

Filed: January 6, 1999

Examiner: G. Ray

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MONITORING THE STATE OF  
A PLURALITY OF MACHINES CONNECTED VIA A  
COMPUTER NETWORK

January 25, 2002

**AMENDMENT RESPONSIVE TO OCTOBER 31, 2001 OFFICE ACTION**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Amendment is filed in response to an Office Action mailed on October 31, 2001 (the "Office Action"), a response to which is due no later than January 31, 2002. Accordingly, this Amendment is being timely filed.

**Certificate of Mailing (37 C.F.R. 1.8)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: *Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231*, on (Date) January 25, 2002.  
Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate:

Helen Giglio

Signature: Helen Giglio